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the writings of Boccaccio, rejecting such statements that are, he says, "asserted with the air of a mediæval Pope speaking *ex cathedra*, no sort of evidence in support of the assertion being vouchsafed" (p. 130).

Boccaccio is known to English readers chiefly through one work, the importance of whose masterful prose is sometimes overlooked, as well as the hint, "*andere Zeiten, andere Sitten*," forgotten by them. With intent, it seems, Mr. Hutton has confined the chapter on the *Decameron* to a few pages, adding a synopsis of it in the valuable appendices. Certainly, Boccaccio as a man and in relation to the social and literary history of his time, gains immeasurably in this book over any previous treatment; for, while Mr. Hutton's presentment is biographical, with Boccaccio's attitude towards women as the running thread, in his statement of Boccaccio's position with respect to the Italian Renaissance innovations in the field of letters, he has given us several most readable chapters after the method of comparative literature.

G. L. SWIGGETT.

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THE SOUTH IN THE BUILDING OF THE NATION. Complete in ten volumes. Richmond, Virginia: The Southern Historical Society.

In the introduction to volume X, Professor S. C. Mitchell, one of the editors-in-chief, gives the spirit animating the whole work and the point of view from which it was undertaken. The treatment is not sectional in the narrow sense, nor is "localism here at variance with nationalism." "Southern issues are viewed in the light of national destiny." The whole work falls into eight divisions: Histories of the Separate States, The Political History, The Economic History, The Literary and Intellectual Life, Fiction, Oratory, The Social Life, Biography. Thus almost every possible phase of Southern life, past and present, is included and discussed in detail by Southern scholars, educators, and statesmen. The work is, therefore, both comprehensive and representative. It is to be regretted, however, that the set should appear in incomplete form, with volumes V and VI yet to follow. In a subsequent issue of THE REVIEW will be given fuller and more adequate estimate of this important work.